

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00457 211824Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 MCT-01 /052 W

-----108816 212204Z /72

R 211713Z FEB 78

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0185

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 00457

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, EI

SUBJECT: MASON-LYNCH CLASH ON SECURITY

1. A SPOKESMAN FOR PRIME MINISTER LYNCH HAS ISSUED A
QUICK REJOINDER TO NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY ROY MASON'S
REPORTED REMARKS IN PARLIAMENT ON FEB 20. THE PAPERS
HERE REPORT THAT MASON SAID HE DISAGREED "ABSOLUTELY &
FUNDAMENTALLY" WITH JACK LYNCH'S STATEMENT THAT ONLY
2 PERCENT OF TERRORIST INCIDENTS IN THE NORTH EMANATE
FROM SOUTH OF THE BORDER. MASON REPORTEDLY THEN SAID
"2 PERCENT IS A PALTRY FIGURE".

2. THE GOI SPOKESMAN RELEASED FIGURES SUPPLIED BY THE
BRITISH SHOWING THAT THE PERCENTAGE OF INCIDENTS WHICH
ORIGINATED IN THE REPUBLIC WAS 2.1 PERCENT IN 1975,
1.26 PERCENT IN 1976, AND 1.06 PERCENT LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: MASON'S REMARKS UNDER PRESSURE IN PARLIAMENT
WOULD NORMALLY NOT SPARK SUCH A BRUSQUE REJOINDER -- THE
GOI UNDERSTANDS THE PRESSURES. HOWEVER, IN THE WAKE OF
THE HORRIFIC INCIDENT AT COMBER, COUNTY DOWN AND THE
REMARKS DA THE PEACE WOMEN THAT LYNCH IS AIDING THE
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PROVISIONAL IRA (SEPTEL), IT WAS DECIDED THAT ENOUGH IS
ENOUGH AND THE GOI APPARENTLY DECIDED THAT IT DID NOT
WANT AN IMAGE TO BE FOSTERED THAT IT IS SOFT ON SECURITY.
A BRITISH EMBASSY SOURCE TOLD US THAT, IN FACT, HMG HAS
NO COMPLAINT WHATEVER ON SECURITY COOPERATION WITH THE GOI.
SHANNON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SECURITY, TERRORISM

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 21 feb 1978

Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014

Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978DUBLIN00457

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780078-0923

Format: TEL

From: DUBLIN

Handling Restrictions:

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780234/aaaabc1y.tel

Line Count: 61

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 490861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 31 may 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3539670

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: MASON-LYNCH CLASH ON SECURITY

TAGS: PINS, EI, (MASON, ROY)

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/490861d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014